

TRAVEL MONTANA FIRE & DROUGHT UPDATE

Monday, September 18, 2006

1:30 p.m.

Current Fire Activity as of: *Monday, September 18, 2006*

A map of locations of the major fires in Montana can be found at: <http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/>

For the most up-to-date information on fires in Montana, visit: <http://www.inciweb.org/state/27/>

Yellowstone Country:

- The Gallatin National Forest lifted some of the area closures in effect in the Big Timber, Livingston and Bozeman areas effective at 6:00 a.m. Saturday, September 16, 2006. In the area where the Derby, Jungle, Passage Falls, and Big Creek Fires have burned, a closure will remain in place.
 - Maps of the closure area are available at the Bozeman Ranger District office at 406-522-2520 and on the forest's Web site www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin.
- The Forest Service is asking the public to remember: "if it's black, stay back." For additional information please contact your local Forest Service office.

DERBY MOUNTAIN - 15 miles south of Big Timber, MT

Gallatin NF. IMT 1 (Stanich). Timber, grass and heavy dead and down fuels. Minimal fire activity. Crews continued mopping up, removing hoses and securing fire lines. The weather is expected to be drier today and Tuesday before another cold front arrives on Wednesday. The moisture and cool conditions helped firefighters get a perimeter around the blazes but full containment isn't estimated until Oct. 15, a rough date used by fire officials estimating snow that will formally put an end to the fire season.

85% contained, 208,096 acres.

PARADISE VALLEY COMPLEX (3 fires) - 29 miles southwest of Livingston, MT

Gallatin NF. Timber. Creeping and smoldering. The Paradise Valley Complex includes the Big Creek Fire (14,000 acres 10 miles west of Emigrant), South Pine Creek Fires (788 acres five miles southeast of Pine Creek), and the Passage Falls Fire (6620 acres 15 miles southwest of Emigrant). Cooler temperatures, rain and snow limited the growth on all of the fires.

55% contained, 21,400 acres.

JUNGLE – 20 miles southeast of Livingston, MT

Gallatin NF. IMT 1 (Stanich). IMT also managing Derby. Fire behavior was minimal due to the recent precipitation, low temperatures and high humidity.

50% contained, 29,013 acres.

Glacier Country:

ULM PEAK - 12 miles southwest of Noxon, MT

Idaho Panhandle NF. Subalpine fir, hemlock and brush. Minimal fire activity.

15% contained, 4200 acres.

HOLLAND PEAK - 5 miles east of Condon, MT

Flathead NF. Smoldering and creeping.

50% contained, 1840 acres.

Yellowstone National Park:

STINKY - 37 miles south east of Gardiner, MT

Yellowstone National Park. This fire is 37 miles south east of Gardiner, MT in lodgepole pine. Creeping and spotting. Confine/contain. The fire has been placed in monitor status. 45% contained, 1010 acres.

Russell Country:

- All fires have received significant moisture in the past two days. As a result, fire growth has subsided and the risk of the fires moving outside of the Wilderness toward private property or structures has been reduced.

CIGARETTE ROCK – 21 southwest of Augusta, MT

Lewis and Clark NF. FUMT (Weldon). FUMT also managing Rival Nanny Complex.

Timber, brush and grass. Minimal activity and area received precipitation. The intent of the Cigarette-Rock long term plan is to protect private property, ensure public safety, minimize exposure to firefighters and manage the fire in a cost effective manner.

No report on containment, 2700 acres.

- The following trails are closed: Petty-Crown Creek Trail #232 (west of the Wilderness boundary), Straight Creek Trail # 212 north of the Trail #228 junction, Patrol Mountain Trail #213, Elbow Pass Trail #248 and Cigarette Rock Trail #247. The area within the Cigarette Rock fire perimeter is also closed to all public entry.

RIVAL NANNY COMPLEX (WFU) - 21 miles west of Bynum, MT

Lewis & Clark NF. Timber. Minimal fire behavior. The intent of the long term plan for the Rival-Nanny complex is to manage the fires for resource benefits while keeping them within the Wilderness.

No report on containment, 2975 acres.

Current Air Quality as of: <i>Monday, September 18, 2006</i>

Friday, September 15 Air Quality <http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp> was the last update of the season.

Current Fire Restrictions and Closures as of: <i>Monday, September 18, 2006</i>
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This link provides a useful state map visual of current fire restrictions. It is updated whenever there is a change in restriction status. <http://fwp.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=19094>

Central Montana:

Stage 1 restrictions

- **Central Montana area includes:** Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Pondera, Teton, Toole Counties, that portion of the Helena National Forest within Powell County, and Glacier County outside of Glacier National Park.

South Central Montana:

[Stage 1 restrictions](#)
[State 2 restrictions](#)
[Stage 3 restrictions](#)

- **South Central Montana area includes:** Park and Gallatin Counties, and the Gallatin National Forest.

Northwest Montana:

[No Restrictions](#)

- **Northwest Montana area includes:** All lands within Flathead and Lincoln Counties, and the portion of Lake County outside of the Flathead Reservation, and all lands administered by the Kootenai and Flathead National Forests, and all of Glacier National Park.

West Central Montana:

[Stage 1 restrictions](#)

- **West Central Montana Area Includes:** Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Granite, Deer Lodge, and Silver Bow Counties, Powell County except the Helena National Forest, the Flathead Indian Reservation, and the portion of Sanders county outside the Kootenai National Forest.

Eastern Montana (Billings area):

[Stage 1 restrictions](#)
[Stage 2 restrictions](#)
[Closures – Motorized Use](#)

- All Bureau of Land Management lands are closed to motorized vehicle use within the South Hills Motorcycle Area, Acton Recreation Area, and the Shepherd Ah-Nei OHV Area.
- **Counties within the Billings Area Include:** Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Treasure, and Yellowstone.

Eastern Montana (Miles City area):

[Stage 1 restrictions](#)
[Stage 2 restrictions](#)

- **Counties within the Miles City Area Include:** Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, and Wibaux.

Eastern Montana (Lewistown area):

[Stage 1 restrictions](#)

- **Counties within the Lewistown Area Include:** Blaine, Chouteau, Daniels, Fergus, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, Petroleum, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley, and Wheatland.

Stage 1 Restrictions:

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site or improved site.

- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Stage 2 Restrictions:

The following acts are prohibited until further notice:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire.
- Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three (3) feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

The following acts are prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.:

- Operating any internal combustion engine.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame.
- Using an explosive.
- A patrol is required for two hours following cessation of all work as described above.
- Operating motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails.

Closure Restrictions:

- Entry or use within a designated area is prohibited

For further description on restrictions, visit: http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/restrictions_index.htm

Current Drought-Related Restrictions as of: <i>Monday, September 18, 2006</i>
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Mandatory Restrictions:

For a map of fishing closures, visit: <http://fwp.mt.gov/content/getItem.aspx?id=19583>

The following river continues to be **closed to fishing** from noon to midnight:

Big Hole River

- The upper reach from Rock Creek Bridge to the mouth of the North Fork; the middle reach from the North Fork to Dickie Bridge on Highway 43; and the lower reach which is the 74-miles from Dickie Bridge to the mouth near Twin Bridges.